



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jury Convicts Former St. Croix Resident Rasheed David of
Drug Trafficking Charges

St. Croix, USVI - United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent-in-Charge Roberto Escobar announced today that a federal jury on St. Croix convicted former St. Croix resident Rasheed David, age 24, of two counts of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and aiding and abetting another to possess with intent to distribute cocaine. David, presently of Orlando, Florida, was convicted on November 4, 2011, following a three-day trial before The Honorable Judge Wilma A. Lewis.

Evidence presented at trial established that in March 2011, David, and a travel companion and co-worker by the name of Damion Barrett, were scheduled to fly from St. Croix to Orlando by way of Puerto Rico. During routine inspection at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on St. Croix, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officer observed an unusual mass in Barrett's groin area. Barrett was subsequently patted down by the officers who found more than

one kilogram of cocaine wrapped in four oval-shaped packages enclosed in see-through plastic.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers discovered that Barrett was traveling with David who had already been processed and was in the airport terminal waiting to board the flight. Officers located David and searched both David and his luggage but failed to locate any narcotics. The officers then conducted a narcotics sweep of the terminal and restrooms. The officers found three suspicious packages inside waste receptacles in the men's restroom. These packages included one brick shaped object and two round oval bags. Each of the packages was found to contain cocaine and wrapped in see-through plastic similar to the contraband located on Barrett's person.

As a result of the conviction, David faces a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison on each count and a maximum sentence of 40 years imprisonment. David, who had been released on a property bond, was immediately remanded into the custody of the United States Marshals Service pending sentencing. A sentencing date has not been scheduled. Barrett's trial is scheduled for January 2012.

The U.S. Attorney praised the work done by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement who investigated the case and Assistant United States Attorney Denise A. Hinds who prosecuted the case.